

9-11-14 COMMENTS ON THE IDAHO'S TAKEOVER OF FEDERAL LANDS

Lands granted to Idaho when it became a state in 1889 were clearly spelled out in the Idaho Admission Bill. It addressed the needs of education, prisons, mental health, & the courts. Section 12 states " That the State of Idaho shall not be entitled to any further or other grants of land than as expressly provided in this act."

The current stated administration has a record of going back on agreements and breaking promises, but their plan to "take" federal lands is prohibited by the federal law that made us a state. Republicans thought they could "take" Iraq's oil to pay for that ill-advised war and that foolish thinking almost bankrupted us and we continue to have to deal with the unintended consequences of that ill-advised war.

The "taker's" plan to take control of federal lands is the same kind of flawed plan that has not been thought through and would have all kinds of unintended consequences. It would in the end cause hardship to the citizens of Idaho. These "takers" look only at what they might get and fail to consider what they would give up if they succeeded. They have pushed for cuts in spending that have crippled the forest service and other agencies who manage federal lands. Currently Idaho's congressional delegation is plotting to exchange cutover lands for prime timber lands via the Upper Lochsa Land Exchange even though the vast majority of Idahoans have rejected the idea and a grass roots groundswell rose up to question the benefit of the exchange.

Raul Labrador blamed Idaho's poor economic performance on "Crony Capitalism", managing the state for the benefit of the few at the expense of the rest of us. Lawrence Denney attempted to exert undue influence on the last legislative reapportionment by attempting to bully one of the representatives his party had chosen because she didn't do exactly what he wanted. Our "private prison debacle" is another example of the administration's failure to properly manage its' responsibilities even after their failure became impossible to ignore.

This "taking" will never happen because it is not legal based on 150 years of legal precedents and the American people will never allow it. These "taker" people are wasting Idahoan's hard earned dollars on an idea that will never happen. These same "takers" refused to take funding for Medicaid expansion even though that funding was there for the taking.

Unintended consequences of their plan would negate any benefits of their plan and end up costing most Idahoans while benefiting only a few. The plan is contrary to the law of the land and is foolish throwing good money after bad. This meeting is a waste of taxpayer money! Go back to Boise and start doing the real job you were elected to!

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